CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A hydraulic support element ~~(1)~~ for a valve train of an internal combustion engine, comprising ~~having~~ a hollow cylindrical housing having a ~~(2), in the~~ bore in ~~(3) of~~ which a pressure piston ~~(4)~~ runs in an axially moveable manner, one end ~~(5)~~ of said piston projecting beyond an edge ~~(6)~~ of the housing ~~(2)~~ and said piston having on said one ~~that~~ one end ~~(5) face~~ a head ~~(7)~~ for mounting a rocker arm and having a non-return valve ~~(9)~~ on the other ~~its~~ end of the piston ~~(8) facing away from the head (7)~~, a high pressure space ~~(11)~~ for hydraulic medium positioned ~~being generated~~ between the other end of the piston ~~(8) facing away~~ and an opposing base ~~(10)~~ of the housing ~~(2)~~, said high pressure space ~~(11)~~ capable of being supplied with the hydraulic medium from a storage space ~~(12)~~ situated above the other end of the piston ~~(8) facing away~~ and enclosed by the pressure piston ~~(4)~~,

wherein the one end of ~~characterized in that~~ the pressure piston ~~(4) consists, at its end (5)~~ which projects beyond the edge ~~(6)~~ of the housing ~~(2)~~ and in at least a portion of the piston ~~(13)~~ which adjoins the one ~~this~~ end of the piston is situated within the housing ~~(2)~~ and extends into the vicinity of the non-return valve ~~(9)~~, comprises ~~of~~ synthetic material reinforced with glass fibers or carbon fibers~~.~~, and

wherein a catch projection is arranged on an outer casing of the portion of the pressure piston which is situated within the housing, and the bore has an annular groove in which the catch projection axially moves; and said annular groove is an upper step for the catch projection.

2. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ glass beads or carbon beads are embedded in the synthetic material of the pressure piston ~~(4)~~ as reinforcement.

3. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 1 wherein ~~**characterized** in that~~ the pressure piston ~~(4)~~ is manufactured in two parts, ~~comprising firstly~~ an upper part ~~(4a)~~ made from the synthetic material, said upper part ~~(4a)~~ being composed of the one end ~~(5)~~ and the portion ~~(13)~~ which ends in the vicinity of the non-return valve ~~(9)~~, and ~~the pressure piston (4) secondly comprising~~ a lower part ~~(4b)~~, made from metallic material, and abutting ~~with~~ the non-return valve ~~(9)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~**characterized** in that~~ catch projections ~~(15) are arranged on an outer casing (14) of the portion (13) of the pressure piston (4), which catch projections are distributed around the circumference and~~ are ~~preferably~~ in one piece with ~~and project from~~ said outer casing ~~and meet an upper stop in an annular groove (16) in the bore (3) of the housing (2)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~**characterized** in that an~~ outer casing ~~(14)~~ of the portion ~~(13)~~ of the pressure piston ~~(4) or, if referring back to claim 4, an outer casing (14) of the portion (13) of the pressure piston (4)~~ apart from the catch projections ~~(15)~~, is of entirely or at least of largely smooth-surfaced design.

6. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~**characterized** in that~~ the upper part ~~(4a)~~ of the pressure piston ~~(4)~~ rests on a facing end side ~~(17)~~ of the lower part ~~(4b)~~ by means of a ring ~~(18)~~, and studs ~~(19)~~, ~~which~~ are distributed about and project from the circumference of the ring, are

elastically ~~or plastically~~ deformable and rest on the end side ~~(17), projecting from the ring (18)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the upper part ~~(4a)~~ of the pressure piston ~~(4)~~ rests on a facing end side ~~(17)~~ of the lower part ~~(4b)~~ by means of a ring ~~(18)~~, and crown-like radial recesses, which adjoin the respectively opposite components end side or ~~(17) /~~ ring ~~(18)~~, running in the ring ~~(18)~~ or in the end side ~~(17)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ an aperture ~~(20)~~ to let hydraulic medium into the storage space ~~(12)~~ is formed between the studs ~~(19) (claim 6) or the radial recesses (claim 7)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the upper part ~~(4a)~~ of the pressure piston ~~(4)~~ rests on a facing end side ~~(17)~~ of the lower part ~~(4b)~~ by means of a ring ~~(18)~~ formed by a reduced-diameter region of the outer casing ~~(14)~~ of said upper part, and studs ~~(19)~~, which are distributed about and project from the circumference of the ring and are elastically ~~or plastically~~ deformable, ~~projecting from the ring (18)~~ and the reduced-diameter region being fixedly installed in a bore ~~(21)~~ of the lower part ~~(4b)~~ as an extension ~~(22)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ one or more longitudinal slots ~~(24)~~ project from a lower end side ~~(23)~~ of the extension ~~(22)~~ of the lower part ~~(4b), it being possible~~ to conduct the hydraulic medium by means of the longitudinal slots ~~(24)~~ into the storage space

~~(12)~~ through an aperture ~~(20)~~ situated between the upper and lower parts ~~(4a, 4b)~~ of the pressure piston ~~(4)~~ and formed by studs ~~(19)~~ or crown-like recesses.

11. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ an edge region between the outer casing ~~(14)~~ and a lower end side ~~(23)~~ of the extension ~~(22)~~ is provided with connection studs ~~(26)~~ for abutment in the bore ~~(21)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the pressure piston ~~(4)~~ is produced by injection molding.

13. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the support element ~~(1)~~ is of non-switchable design.

14. (Currently Amended) The support element as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the support element ~~(1)~~ is of switchable design in order to achieve different valve strokes.

15. (New) The support element as claimed in claim 7, wherein an aperture to let hydraulic medium into the storage space is formed between the radial recesses.